

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/716,653

Examiner

Omar F. Fernández Rivas

Applicant(s)

ALLING ET AL.

Art Unit

2129

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment entered on July 16, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-38.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to an AMENDMENT filed by the Applicant entered on July 16, 2007.
2. Claims 15-38 are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 15-38 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, as per MPEP § 2111.01, In re Donaldson Co., Inc., 29 USPQ 2d 1845, 1850 (Fed. Cir. 1994), or In re Sneed, 710 F.2d 1544, 1548, 218 USPQ 385 (Fed. Cir. 1983), none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in the independent claims, specifically transmitting the fault symptom query corresponding to the next decision point and an option to view all of the resolution points to the user access device (as defined at e.g. at page 5, second paragraph; page 7, second paragraph); determining if the reply includes one of the potential responses or if the reply includes a request to view all of the decision points (as defined at e.g. at page 5, second paragraph; page 7, second paragraph); and in response to determining that the reply includes a request to view all of the resolution points: transmitting diagnostic images associated with each of the resolution points in the decision tree to the

Art Unit: 2129

user access device, thereby allowing a user to diagnose a fault without having to respond to queries for traversing the decision tree (as defined at e.g. page 7, second paragraph) as specified in independent claims 15, 28, 34 and 35.

Skaaning et al. (US Patent #6,535,865) discloses an automated troubleshooter that uses Bayesian networks to troubleshoot a system. An issue to troubleshoot is identified. A user is queried for answers to questions relating to the issue. Causes and subcauses for the issue are identified. Troubleshooting steps are matched to the causes and subcauses. Each troubleshooting step suggests an action to remedy the causes of the issue.

Buenzli, Jr et al. (US Patent #5,157,668) discloses an apparatus for locating faults in electronic units. An electronic unit is represented by behavioral constraints. Troubleshooting takes place by applying a search strategy in a top-down fashion. Tests are performed on the unit. When a faulty block in the unit is found, the search moves down one abstraction level and searches the next level lower block.

However, the combination of Skaaning and Buenzli do not teach transmitting the fault symptom query corresponding to the next decision point and an option to view all of the resolution points to the user access device; determining if the reply

Art Unit: 2129

includes one of the potential responses or if the reply includes a request to view all of the decision points; and in response to determining that the reply includes a request to view all of the resolution points: transmitting diagnostic images associated with each of the resolution points in the decision tree to the user access device, thereby allowing a user to diagnose a fault without having to respond to queries for traversing the decision tree as specified in independent claims 15, 28, 34 and 35.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kekic et al. US Patent #6,788,315

Limon et al. US Patent #6,453,435

Faigon et al. US Patent #6,006,016

5. Claims 15-38 are allowed.

Correspondence Information

6. Any inquires concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Omar F. Fernández Rivas, who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at (571) 272-2589 or email omar.fernandezrivas@uspto.gov.

If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to (571) 273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the Examiner's Supervisor, David Vincent, may be reached at (571) 272-3080.

Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist @ (Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22313), located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building.

Omar F. Fernández Rivas

Patent Examiner

Artificial Intelligence Art Unit 2129

United States Department of Commerce

Patent & Trademark Office

Thursday, February 22, 2007



DAVID VINCENT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER